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HISTORY

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BELFAST, MAINE,

TO 1825.

BY

DR. HERMAN ABBOTT

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON

REPRINTED FROM THE REPUBLICAN JOURNAL OF
JAN. 25, FEB. 1, FEB. 5 AND FEB. 15, 1900.

BELFAST.

MISS GRACE E. PURGESS,

1900

SEVENTY-FIVE COPIES PRINTED.

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DISCOVERY OF A LONG LOST MANUSCRIPT.

A prefatory "advertisement" to the little History of Belfast, by William White, which was published in 1827, contains the following paragraph:

"Doctor Herman Abbot had collected many facts, with a view of compiling a history of the town of Belfast. All the good purposes and labours of that worthy man were ended in his death, which occurred in the midst of his great usefulness, and filled society with grief. His memoranda, by his administrator, were placed in the possession of the author who has found them accurate and useful, and that no part of them should be lost to the public, the manuscript is lodged in the Town Clerk's office."

Fifty years after this was written, while preparing my history of the city, I made an exhaustive but unsuccessful search for the above mentioned manuscript. Not a single person could be found who had ever seen the work, or knew of its existence. A few weeks ago, therefore, I was agreeably surprised by learning from my friend George D. McCrillis, Register of Deeds, that while examining the contents of a disused trunk, belonging to his father, the late James McCrillis, Esq., he had unexpectedly discovered the missing treasure, inclosed among some old papers, and in a good state of preservation after its sleep of nearly three quarters of a century.

The manuscript is comprised in eight pamphlets, averaging fifteen pages each, five inches long by four wide, written in the same legible hand which characterizes our municipal records while the author held the position of town clerk. Although it does not shed much light upon our early annals, it verifies many obscure events, and its discovery is valuable and important.

Dr. Abbot, the author, was a native of Wilton, N. H., and practiced his profession here from 1810, until his death, which took place July 24, 1825, at the age of forty-two years. Mr. Charles Read, who is among the few of our citizens who remember him, says in personal appearance he was tall and spare, slightly stooping, but of a dignified and attractive deportment. He was never married. A tribute to his life and character is thus given in the Hancock Gazette, soon after his decease:

"The man whose virtues we contemplate with no ordinary emotions, and whose sudden removing from this scene of things, we have so much reason to lament, was distinguished by a singularity of excellence, which will always find more approvers than imitators in a world like ours. His scientific research and professional skill have been tested by many years' successful practice in this town, where he will long be remembered by his

intimate friends with grateful affection, and by the community of which he was a member with universal respect. But we love to contemplate him in a still higher character,—higher, because it had a more important bearing upon the world to which he is now removed. We mean his character as a man of unbending integrity, a Christian of unaffected piety. The church, of which he was both a highly valued member and officer, have regarded him as a brother, to whom they could look with confidence in seasons of difficulty, and whom they now mourn with a sorrow alleviated only by the delightful conviction that their loss is his unspeakable gain. Having lived with the awards of eternity in view, death met him not unprepared. In his last hours he observed to a friend that ‘he considered death as the inevitable lot, but to the Christian not an evil.’”

The following is an exact copy of the manuscript. The foot notes are added by me.

JOSEPH WILLIAMSON.

History of Belfast

From its First Settlement to the Year 1825.

BY HERMAN ABBOT.

PREFACE.

To collect and preserve a few facts relating to the early history and settlement of this town; the leading traits in the character of its first inhabitants, together with their privations and hardships; to notice our literary and religious institutions; our growing wealth and population; to mark the course of events and to describe the improvements which have taken place here in the period of little more than half a century may be thought an object worthy of some attention. The proprietors and town records furnish much valuable information respecting the days which

have long since passed away. These sources alone abound in too few materials to answer the purpose, and treat of topics too general in their nature to embrace a copious and useful variety. A more detailed account therefore appeared indispensable; and it has become necessary by consulting the aged inhabitants and the descendants of the proprietors and first settlers to arrest valuable matter in its slow but steady march to oblivion. The knowledge of many little incidents of former times has by these means been sought out, arranged and committed to writing, which with the addition of more recent occurrences contain, as I trust, an interesting compilation. Considering, however, the manner of procuring some portion of the materials for this sketch of Belfast, I am sensible that slight inaccuracies will be found; at the same time the public may be assured that no pains have been spared to obtain the most authentic information.

To those who have kindly assisted me in this undertaking, and particularly to Mr. John Cochran, the only surviving original proprietor resident in this town, through whose politeness I have had access to the proprietors' deed and records, I tender my grateful acknowledgments.

HISTORY OF BELFAST.

In the year 1768 a number of young men belonging principally to Londonderry, N. H., began to adopt measures for the purchase of Belfast Township in the Province of Maine.

The straitened circumstances of some and the strong local attachments of many more, who were unwilling to remove the distance of two hundred miles to endure hardships in a wilderness inhabited only by Indians and wild beasts, presented

prospects truly formidable. A spirit of enterprise, however, overcame all obstacles and the plan was so far matured that a meeting was notified and held at Londonderry on the fourth day of October, when the intended purchasers divided the township into shares, subscribed for the number of shares each would take, and appointed a clerk to record their proceedings.

In June following, Joseph Chadwick made a survey of the township, which contained, according to his estimate, 19,359 acres. This was divided into fifty-one shares, and a deed bearing date August 29, 1769, was made in consideration of fifteen hundred pounds by the heirs of Brigadier General Samuel Waldo, viz.: Samuel Waldo, Esq., Francis Waldo, Esq., and Sarah Waldo, wife of said Samuel, (her right of dower) of Falmouth, in the County of Cumberland, Maine; Isaac Winslow, Esq., of Roxbury, Massachusetts; Thomas Flucker, Esq., and Hannah Flucker, his wife, (daughter of Brig.-Gen. Waldo) of Boston, Massachusetts, (1) to John Mitchel, six shares; John Gilmore, five shares; John Steel, three shares, Samuel Houston and James McGregore, each two shares; Moses Barnet, John Moor, John Durham, Joseph Morrison, John Brown, James McGregore, Jr., John Morrison, Alexander Stewart, James Miller, William Clendinen, Matthew Reed, Samuel Mursh, Nathaniel Martin, and Joseph Gregg, each one share; William Patterson, Matthew Chambers and William McLaughlin, each half a share; all of Londonderry, N. H. John Tufts and James Gilmore, each two shares; Robert Macklewane, Alexander Wilson and John

Davidson, each one share; all of Windham, N. H. Robert Patterson of Pepperellboro, Maine, three shares; Alexander Little and John Cochran, both of Boston, each one share; David Hemphill of Newburyport, one share; James McLaughlin of Pembroke, N. H., half a share; and the remaining four shares in equal proportions to the afore named John Mitchel, John Gilmore, Moses Barnet, John Tufts, Samuel Houston, John Moor and James McGregore, Jr.

Previous to executing the deed the grantors of this township employed Richard Stimson to survey a suitable location for a road from Thomaston to Fort Point, for which service he was to have one hundred acres of land at some place on the route. He accepted the proposal and selected a spot near a small creek (2) which is the dividing line between this town and Prospect. Thither his father, Ephraim Stimson, removed, whose family, the first that ever settled here, consisted of himself and wife, two sons, Ephraim and Richard, and several daughters.

In 1769, James Patterson and Nathaniel, his brother, both young men, came to this town from Pepperellboro (3) and commenced the business of felling trees and clearing land. They spent the ensuing winter here, at which time there was but one family in the place, the Stimson's, above mentioned.

The next year, 1770, several of the town proprietors arrived and took possession of their newly acquired purchase, with the

1. Winslow derived an interest through his deceased wife, a daughter of General Waldo. Thomas and Hannah Flucker were the parents of the wife of General Knox.

2. The stream in the western part of Searsport village, called Half-way creek. Stimson's father first settled on the hill named for him Mount Ephraim.

3. Now *Saco*. James Patterson settled upon the Stock Farm, on the east side, long the homestead of his nephew, the late Robert Patterson 5th. Nathaniel resided on lot No. 32, also on the east side.

view of converting the lonely forest into fruitful fields for the support of themselves and families. It was to be expected that they would bring with them the religion, manners, habits and customs of the places they had left. Twenty-seven out of thirty-two purchasers belonged to Londonderry or Windham, whose inhabitants were principally of Scottish or Irish descent. In the former of these towns there were two societies of Presbyterians with each a clergyman of the first respectability, Rev. Wilham Davidson and Rev. David McGregore, who had been settled there no less than thirty years. In the latter was the Rev. Simon Williams, a highly useful Presbyterian minister. To exchange these religious privileges, therefore, for a situation where they could enjoy no stated preaching of the word and but very seldom hear a prayer or a sermon from those who are called to labour in the vineyard of the Lord and whose business it is more particularly to watch for souls as those who are to give account, must have been matter of deep regret to them and their friends. Many domestic and social ties implanted in man for wise and beneficent purposes, and which form necessary links in the great chain which connects the human species, were severed by their removal. Taking the final leave of father and mother, brothers and sisters with the express design of seeking a residence in the wilds of Maine awakened the tenderest sensibilities and gave impulse to the most affecting emotions of which kindred hearts are susceptible.

These few adventurers were fully persuaded that patient labour and rigid economy were necessary to success in a new country. Industry, temperance and frugality were virtues on which they set a

high value; by the practice of which they acquired a hardy constitution and saved their earnings for useful purposes.

In their manners they exhibited a model of perfect plainness and simplicity indicative of contentment and a cheerful disposition, and so cordial was their reception of those who visited them that with very limited means it might be truly said they were given to hospitality. The Scottish dialect was understood and spoken by several of them; and some traces of it are retained to the present day. Those of the first settlers who remain and their immediate descendants, read the poems of Burns with a keen relish and are enthusiastic admirers of the language of the Scottish bard.

Nothing memorable happened after the settlement began until December 1770, when John Morrison and Thomas Steel were drowned by the upsetting of a boat in Belfast bay.

The Proprietors held their first meeting here June 25th, 1771, the land was laid out into lots, and partition was made of so much of it as became necessary for the convenience of the settlers.

The first white child born here was Ann, the second daughter of William Patterson and afterwards the wife of Enos West. Her birth happened May 9th, 1772. The same year William Patterson 2nd was married to Mary Mitchel by Dr. Crawford of Frankfort, a justice of the peace. This was the first marriage that took place in town.

In 1773 the Town was incorporated and the warrant for calling the first meeting of the inhabitants was issued by Thomas Goldthwait, Esq., of Frankfort, of which the following is a copy.

To Mr. John Mitchel of Belfast, Gentleman,—Greeting.

Whereas the great and general Court at their sessions began and held at Boston upon Wednesday, the twenty-ninth day of May last, passed an act for incorporating a certain tract of land lying on the westerly side of Penobscot Bay into a town by the name of Belfast in the County of Lincoln, and the said General Court having empowered me, the subscriber, to issue a warrant directed to some principal inhabitant in said town to notify and warn the Inhabitants thereof qualified by law to vote in Town affairs to meet at such time and place as shall be therein set forth to choose such officers as may be necessary to manage the affairs of said Town, at which first meeting all the then male inhabitants that be at the age of twenty-one years shall be admitted to vote.

These are, therefore, in his majesty's name to require you, the said John Mitchel, to notify the said Inhabitants of Belfast to meet at your dwelling house in said Town on Thursday the eleventh day of November, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, then and there to choose a Town Clerk, Selectmen and all other Town Officers according to law and make return of this warrant with your doings as soon after the same is carried into execution as may be.

Given under my hand and seal at Frankfort, October 1773.

THOMAS GOLDTHWAIT.

In obedience to the above warrant I have warned the Inhabitants of Belfast to attend their first meeting as appointed in said warrant.

JOHN MITCHEL.

At this meeting Thomas Goldthwait was chosen Moderator; John Mitchel, Clerk; John Brown, Benjamin Nesmith and James Patterson, Selectmen; John Barnet, Treasurer; William Patterson, 1st, Constable; John Durham, Jr., Alexander Clark, and James Miller, Surveyors of Highways; John Durham and James Morrow, Wardens.

In 1774 the Town voted to send a petition to the General Court at Boston to have non-resident lands taxed; that John Tufts carry the petition; and that he be

allowed, as wages, three shillings a day; he finding vituals and drink for himself.

Mr. John Barnet and Miss Isabella Durham were joined in marriage Sept. 27th, 1774 by Daniel Little.

The Town Clerk entered on the records a certificate bearing date Nov. 8th, 1774, stating that he had lawfully published Mr. James Morrow to Miss Elizabeth Durham, both of this Town.

In 1775 the Town voted to raise one hundred dollars for the highways, and fifty dollars for preaching. John Tufts, John Brown, Solon Stephenson, James Patterson, and Samuel Houston were appointed committee of safety. John Tufts was recommended by vote of the Town for a Justice of the peace, and was soon after commissioned.

The Town also voted, that if any person makes unnecessary visits on the Sabbath, he shall be looked on with contempt, until he make acknowledgment to the public. The inhabitants, at this time, felt great inconvenience, in being obliged to go fifteen miles, or more to mill; and an article was inserted in one of the Town warrants this year, 'To see if they could lay any plan to have a grist mill in town.' It does not appear that anything was done to remedy the evil complained of, except that the laying out certain roads to mill streams might be considered, as holding out to individuals encouragement to build mills. The Selectmen warned Joseph Dow June 10th, 1775, to withdraw from this Town forthwith; for they would not accept him, as a Town inhabitant.

1776. The committee of safety was composed of the same persons, as last year. Mr. James McCurdy was married to Miss Ann Mitchel Nov. 30th, 1776.

1777. Committee of safety, inspection and correspondence; Alexander Clark,

Solon Stephenson, John Mitchel, James Patterson, Robert Patterson, Samuel Houston, and Benjamin Nesmith. The Town appointed Solon Stephenson to lay before the General Court the misconduct of any person, either by word, or action against the United States.

1778. The Town voted unanimously to approve of the constitution, or form of Government, as agreed on by the honorable Convention of this State. Yeas 19.

Messrs. John Tufts, Solon Stephenson, John Brown, Committee of safety, &c. and were re-elected next year.

1779. The Town voted to raise twenty-five pounds for its own use, or in a more modern style, for incidental expenses.

This year Castine was taken by the British and the Inhabitants of Belfast to their inexpressible mortification were required to come forward and swear allegiance to the King of Great Britain or be treated as enemies. To the arbitrary measures of this monarch they were violently opposed; and refusing to bind themselves by the solemnities of an oath to engage in a cause which they so heartily despised and finding themselves in danger they quitted their farms and made good their retreat to places out of the reach of persecution. (4)

1785. No sooner had the war between this country and Great Britain come to a happy termination and the enemy had withdrawn from our borders than the settlers scattered in all directions, began one after another to return and occupy their farms. Some, however, were so well situated elsewhere that they did not wish to revisit the place where they had met so much trouble and vexation. There

4. This is an error. Ten of the eighteen heads of families then here, took the oath "under compulsion," as they afterwards admitted.

had been no town meetings since 1779 and Jonathan Buck, Esq., of Penobscot, agreeably to a resolve of the General Court, issued a warrant to John Tufts, Esq., directing him to call a meeting of the inhabitants on the twenty-ninth day of March for the purpose of choosing town officers and transacting town business.

1788. The town sent a petition to the General Court that they might be empowered to lay a tax of two pence per acre on all the lands in town to raise money in order to build a meeting house, settle a minister, make bridges and repair roads.

1790. Number of inhabitants in town 245.

1792. Forty three votes were given for the separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts & two against it.

The town voted to build two meeting houses one on each side of the river to be erected at the expense of the inhabitants of each side separately. In the autumn town meetings were held in both of these houses.

1794. A demand was made by government of ten soldiers from the Belfast Company. (5) The town voted them a liberal allowance in addition to their regular pay in case they should be called into actual service. Mr. James Miller died Jan. 11th, aged 82.

1795. Mr. John Steel died June 14th, aged 84.

1796. At the commencement of this year there were only twelve framed dwelling houses in town and but one of them two stories high. [6]

5. This call was occasioned by Indian hostilities in the western country, and anticipated difficulties with England.

6. The two story house was built by James Miller, in 1791. It was afterwards occupied by Rev. William Frothingham, and perished in the great fire of 1873.

A committee was chosen by the town to treat with Mr. Ebenezer Price on terms of settlement as a minister composed of the following persons, John Tufts, Solon Stephe son, Samuel McKeen, Samuel Houston, John Cochran, James Patterson, Benjamin Nesmith, Robert Steel, Tolford Durham, John Cochran 2nd and Alexander Clark.

The town voted to give Mr. Price two hundred dollars a year as a salary and to add ten dollars each year until it shall amount to three hundred dollars; also a parsonage lot reserved for the first settled minister except one acre for a meeting house to stand on and a sufficient quantity of land for a burying ground.

A protest against the settlement of Mr. Price is on the records of the town signed by Solon Stephenson, Zenas Stephenson, Caleb Stephenson, William Patterson, William Patterson, James Patterson Nathaniel Patterson, Robert Patterson, Jerome Stephenson, George Cochran, Robert Cochran, Peter Cochran, John Cochran, John Young, Job Young, John Osborn, Josiah Dillingham, Ichabod Clark, Elisha Clark, Nathaniel Eells, Robert Miller, James Gammon, Robert Steel and Jonathan White.

The following is a copy of the Letter of the Committee appointed by the town to wait on Mr. Ebenezer Price and notify him of his call to the ministry dated Belfast Sept. 19th, 1796.

To Ebenezer Price A. B.
Preacher of the Gospel.

The People of the Town of Belfast wish health, grace and peace.

We being fully sensible of our desolate and unhappy situation as a people while destitute of a spiritual guide, feeling ourselves and offspring deprived of rich and peculiar blessings so long as we

are destitute of a regular church of Christ, the stated dispensation of the word and the administration of the ordinances of the gospel, and viewing ourselves candidates for immortality, duty calls on us to use our ability and exert our most zealous endeavors to obtain those spiritual blessing and privileges which Christ our Saviour hath provided in the gospel. We, therefore, make known to you, dear sir, our situation.

It is now a considerable time that you have laboured with us in word and doctrine and we view it the smiles of providence that you have been led to this part of the vineyard of our Lord to us who are scattered like sheep upon the mountains without a shepherd. You have by your public labours, private walk, doctrine, example and by the testimonials of others recommended yourself to us as a faithful ambassador of Christ which demand our affection, respect and reverence. Ever since our first acquaintance the eyes of the people have been upon you that you should be set over them in the Lord; and 'tis the general voice and united desire and prayer that should there be a church gathered here according to the rules of Christ you should take the pastoral care of this church and people, to be ordained over them and spend your days for their spiritual interest in the high and holy calling of a gospel minister, that we may no longer be as sheep going astray subject to be devoured by wolves, but that in you we may find a faithful shepherd, a spiritual guide, one who will naturally care for us, who will deliver to us the doctrines of the gospel with plainness and simplicity, whose talents may be improved for our edification, whose words a balm for the wounded in spirit, whose example our pattern and whose season-

able admonitions our preservation from error, that we may walk together while here on earth in love enjoying the ordinances of the gospel and be prepared to sit in Christ's kingdom forever.

That you, dear sir, may see your way clear to manifest your acceptance of this call to the pastoral care of this church when gathered and congregation in the town of Belfast is our general, fervent, and humble prayer to Almighty God. But as we expect of you spiritual things we would in like manner minister to your wants in carnal things. (Then follows the offer of the town in respect to settle ment and salary)

We submit this call and these proposals to your serious and solemn consideration, beseeching God to direct you in the path of duty particularly in this most important matter and that he would grant that whatever be your determination we may acquiesce in the dispensations of his providence.

Signed by Samuel McKeen, John Cochran, Telford Durham and Alexander McMillan.

Mr. Price's answer.

TO THE SOCIETY AND PEOPLE OF BELFAST:—

DEAR AND BELOVED:

'Tis now a considerable time since I received by the hand of your committee a call and proposals to settle with you in the gospel ministry. Sensible of your situation I feel myself under obligation as soon as possible to make known to you the result of my reflections on this solemn and important subject. It is a subject of the greatest moment both to you and me because in it each of our soul's eternal interest is materially concerned.—On the decision I am called to give, much is depending, as it must be attended with

endless consequences and because from it the glory and honor of Christ's kingdom are inseparable. Therefore, with what reverence, caution and assurance of duty ought I to decide, lest I wrong my own soul and mar the divine glory.—According to the clearest light and helps I have been able to obtain from a prayerful enquiry and the most mature deliberation providence directs to receive the call of the Society of Belfast as the call of God.—I do therefore, relying on God in obedience to what appears duty, publicly and cordially accept your invitation and proposals to be ordained over you in the work of the gospel ministry, and that as soon as an Ecclesiastical council may be convened and a Church of Christ gathered should the present appearance continue.

I am not insensible that this decision is attended with things at present disagreeable and self-denying. There is an opposition to my settlement. No ministers at hand with whom I might advise on emergent occasions and I am far removed from my kindred and friends, but the cross must be borne by the followers of Christ. I would feel submissive to God who disposeth all things according to infinite wisdom.—

The reasons influencing me to this my answer are, the peculiar operations of providence relative to you as a Society since my first acquaintance with you; the repeated instances of your unanimity and apparent engagedness in the cause of the Redeemer and especially your last general public act. These, taking into view your critical situation should your endeavors prove ineffectual with the Council of my reverend fathers and brethren in the ministry are reasons which leave me no room to doubt the propriety of my decision notwithstanding what has appeared to the

contrary.—But when I consider my unworthiness of so high and holy a calling, my youth, inexperience, liability to err and to be drawn aside by temptation, to have the care of immortal souls, how terrifying the idea! Nothing but the desire of promoting the cause of the Redeemer in this place would influence me to settle with you. Should this proposed union take place much will depend on you as a church and people not only to make my life comfortable but to ease the burden of my ministerial labours. Those of you who profess to be the children of God will I trust feel it a duty constantly to bear me to the throne of grace, to strengthen my hands and encourage my heart. May I ever enjoy your counsel and since I am a man subject to like passions with other men, when occasion calls do not withhold your seasonable and friendly admonitions. I shall expect from you moderation, candour and charity in your conduct towards me, and may I toward you discharge the duty of the ministerial character, watching over the Lord's flock like a faithful shepherd, ministering to your spiritual wants teaching the commandments of God, preserve my garments unspotted from the world and by soul free from the blood of all men.—And may I increase in grace, knowledge, wisdom, prudence and humility that you may be profit'd by my labours and example.—Should we unite as Minister and People, O that it might be for your mutual edification comfort and joy. May I go out and in before you in the fear of God, not counting my life dear to me but manifesting a willing mind to spend the days God shall give me in the service of Christ for your sakes.—And may you in me receive a rich blessing. May there be many souls from among you edified, comforted and

brought to the saving knowledge of Christ thro' my instrumentality.

The God of grace grant that we may walk together as minister and people enjoying the ordinances of the gospel in love, union and Christian fellowship untill God in his own time shall call us from this scene of trial to spend an eternity with the spirits of the just made perfect.

EBENEZER PRICE.

You have doubtless anticipated that as my parents and friends live at a great distance a few Sabbaths yearly will be necessarily taken in visiting them.

A Council was convened on the twenty-eighth day of December consisting of Rev. E. Gillet, Rev. Jona. Powers, Rev. Jona. Huse and Rev. W. Riddel, with their delegates. The next day a church was organized and Mr. Price was ordained. The original associates who composed the Rev. Mr. Price's church were John Tufts, Samuel McKeen, Samuel Houston, John Brown, John Cochran and John Alexander, the two first of whom were afterwards appointed deacons.

1797. Mr. William McLaughlin died March 27th aged 90. Mr. Nathaniel French died July 1st aged 50. Mr. Enos West was married to Miss Ann Patterson, the first born child of Belfast Dec. 5th.

1798. Solon Stephenson and twenty-two others petitioned the General Court to be incorporated with such others as might join them, their polls and estates, into a distinct Parish by the name of the Religious Society in the town of Belfast. In the petition they assert 'that there is settled within said town of Belfast a minister who tho' approved by a majority of the Inhabitants of said town hold tenets and preaches doctrines which your petitioners cannot conscientiously receive.' Also, 'we sincerely and honestly believe

that the principles approved and doctrines inculcated by the Minister of the Town are unscriptural, immoral and destructive to the order and interest of Society.'

The General Court ordered the petitioners to notify the Town of Belfast by serving the Clerk thereof with an attested copy of this petition & their order thereon thirty days before the second tuesday of their next session that they may appear and shew cause if any they have why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. In November the Town appointed Robert Houston Esq John Cochran 2nd and Tolford Durham a committee to present a memorial in behalf of the town against this petition. This memorial which appears at full length on the town records is ably and ingeniously written & it met with a favourable reception for at the next session of the Legislature the petitioners had leave to withdraw their petition.

1799. Mr. John Cochran died January 1st aged 59.

1800. Mrs. M. H. Cochran died March 8th aged 85. Mr. Samuel Eells died Aug. 3d aged 41. Mr. Benjamin Nesmith died Sept. 18th aged 66. This town contains

Inhabitants.

1801. William Cunningham Jonathan Wilson, William Patterson, Ephraim McFarland, Samuel Russell, Robert Patterson 2nd Abner G. McKeen, Nathaniel Patterson, Ephraim McKeen, Jacob Eames, Robert B. Cochran and John S. Osborn were incorporated Feb. 10th, by the name of the Belfast Bridge Company to build a toll bridge over Belfast River. This commonly called the Upper Bridge was completed the same year at the expense of about \$6000.

1802. Deacon John Tufts died March 3rd aged 78. Mrs. Grisel Jameson died

March 18th aged 96. Mr. Robert Steel died October 25th aged 43.

Forty-one deaths happened in town this year a list of which is preserved on the church records.

The town appointed a committee to wait on the Rev. Mr. Price to see on what conditions he would have his connexions as minister of the town dissolved. The terms that he proposed were that they should pay up the arrearages of his salary give him two hundred and fifty dollars and procure for him a warrantee deed of the parsonage lot from the proprietors. On his part he would give a deed to the town of one acre of the same lot where the East meeting house stands and moreover would lay out a sufficient quantity of land for a burying ground. His offer was accepted and his dismissal took place Sept. 22nd.

1803. The town voted 500 dollars for the support of schools and 2000 for the repairs of highways. A company of Artillery was organized within the bounds of this Regiment and its officers were Jonathan Wilson Capt. Ephraim McFarland 1st Lieut.; Thomas Cunningham 2nd Lieut. Jonathan Wilson Esq. was chosen Representatives to the Legislature the first ever sent by this town.

1804. This town gave 102 votes for Governor. A company of Cavalry was organized here, and John Wilson was commissioned its captain Robert White 1st Lieut. Joseph Houston 2nd Lieut.; & Abel Baker Cornet. — Jenny Patterson daughter of James Patterson and Elizabeth his wife and the youngest of their twelve children was born April 11th. Her eldest brother was at this time 28 years 4 months and twenty six days old and the mother a little rising of forty six years.

1805. Jonathan Wilson Esq. and his associates were incorporated for the purpose of building a toll bridge over Belfast river at the village called Belfast East Bridge March 14.

Lemuel Weeks Esq. died May 20th aged 50.

Rev. Alfred Johnson was installed minister of this town Sept. 25th salary \$700 per ann.

1806. Belfast East Bridge was completed at the expense of \$18,500. Its length was 122 rods.

1807. Mr. Solon Stephenson died Feb. 14th aged 73.

1808. Belfast Academy was incorporated Feb. 29th and the following gentlemen constituted the Board of Trustees, George Ulmer and Samuel A. Whitney Esqrs.; Rev. Alfred Johnson; Phineas Ashmun, Bohan P. Field, Thomas Whittier James Nesmith, Nathan Read, John Wilson & Jonathan Wilson Esqrs; Doct. Thaddeus Hubbard, Doct. Oliver Mann Rev. William Mason, Rev. Mighill Blood and Caleb B. Hall Esq. — Votes for Governor 186.

1809. Abel Baker Constable and Collector of taxes for the years 1806, 1807, and 1808 having absconded with considerable of the Towns money a meeting of the Inhabitants was notified and held Feb. 9th to make choice of a Collector to complete the collection of taxes in the bills committed to the said Baker. This arrant rogue never afterwards appeared here and the town after making the necessary abatements recovered the deficit on the bonds. — Mr. James Gilmore died Nov. 28th.

Rev. Alfred Johnson addressed a letter to the Assessors of the town stating in substance that he understood several persons liable to ministerial taxes in this town had joined others in a petition to be incorporated into a Baptist Society where-

by the burden of his support might be greater on those who continued members of his society he therefore thro' them would declare that those who remain faithful to the covenants of the town with him their taxes should not be increased by the apostacy of others.

1810. The town contains 1,274 inhabitants. Mrs. Brown died aged 90. John Merriam and twenty-eight others, petitioners to be incorporated by the name of the first Baptist Society in Belfast had an order of notice granted on their petition which was duly served and the Town at a meeting Dec. 13th did not think proper to remonstrate.—

1811. The Baptist Society was incorporated.

James Nesmith Esq. died March 4th aged 47.

Belfast Academy was opened May 17th and an address was delivered by Mr. James Porter the first Preceptor.— A ship of 490 tons was built here called the Belfast of New York.

1812. Number of Polls in Belfast 319. Mr. James Gordon died aged 86.

Rev. Alfred Johnson gave the first Congregational Parish a bond relinquishing his salary during the present war with Great Britain & not long after one extending the time indefinitely.

1813. John Wilson Esq. of this town was elected member of Congress two years from March 4th.

Benjamin Poor Esq. died Aug. 10th aged 52.—

Rev. Alfred Johnson took his dismissal Oct. 3rd 1814. The British landed a body of troops in this Town amounting to about six hundred Sept. 1st who embarked on the 5th.

1815. Messrs. Nathan Cram, Parker Brown and Daniel Toward of this town

and Mr. Joseph Woodward of Islesboro' were drowned by the upsetting of a boat in Belfast Bay Oct. 23rd.

William Lowney A. M., a graduate of Dublin College died Nov. 8th aged 76.

1816. This was a remarkably cold season. Apple trees were in blossom July 1st, and the crops were very scanty.

A Town meeting was held Sept. 2nd to consider the question of separating the District of Maine from Massachusetts on certain prescribed terms. The votes stood thus, yeas 95, nays 65, and Alfred Johnson & John Merriam Esqrs. were appointed Delegates.—

1817. John Wilson Esq. was again elected member Congress. Mr. Francis Anderson died Feb. 22nd aged 39.

Mr. Patrick Gilbreth died April 4th aged 78.

Mr. John Brown died in May aged 86.

1818. A Custom House was established here and Col. Daniel Laue appointed Collector.—

Rev. William Frothingham received a call from the first Congregational Parish April 27th & from the Church May 7th to settle with them in the work of the Gospel ministry.

Mrs. West, wife of Enos West died at Monroe, May 7th aged 46. (7).

The frame of the first Congregational Meeting house was raised June 10th and 11th.

The new Meeting house was solemnly dedicated Nov. 15th.

The cost of it including the bell purchased afterwards by the Parish was about \$7,500; the expense of which was defrayed by the sale of the pews.

Rev. William Frothingham made a communication in answer to the call given

him to settle here as follows:

(See original letter).

1819. The small pox made its appearance and one hundred and fifty persons were the subjects of the disease in this town between the middle of April & the end of June. It was first introduced here by picking up and washing some infected clothes which had drifted ashore. To nine persons it proved fatal.

On the return of Rev. Mr. Frothingham in May some disagreement being found to exist between him and a majority of the Church in respect to religious tenets and a church covenant, the parish unwilling to entrust the church with the making arrangements to settle Rev. Mr. F. under present circumstances assumed the right of selecting the council and a committee of eight was chosen with power to choose a council and provide suitable accommodations for them at the expense of the Parish. The Parish Committee and Rev. Mr. F. having chosen an equal number to compose an Ecclesiastical Council, the day was fixed on and the council appeared. A few weeks before his installation the church informed Rev. Mr. F. that the calling of the council according to ecclesiastical usage belonged exclusively to themselves and not to the Parish; they had voted, that the council should consist of nine ministers and their delegates of which they had chosen six & he might elect three. This proposal was rejected by Rev. Mr. F. and he was settled July 21st without a church. The Clergy who officiated at the installation of the Rev. Mr. Frothingham were Rev. Dr. Ripley of Concord, Rev. Dr. Allyn of Duxbury, Rev. Mr. Lowell of Boston, Rev. Dr. Packard of Wiscasset, Rev. Mr. Mason of Castine and Rev. Mr. Warren of Jackson. His salary is \$600. per annum.—

7. She was the first child born here,

On Thursday August 12th Rev. William Frothingham, Samuel Cunningham, Nathan Read, William Poor, Nicholas Coffin & Herman Abbot formed themselves into a Church by adopting a platform and covenant & at the end of this year it consisted of eighteen members.

Alfred Johnson Esq. was chosen by the town Sept. 20th a Delegate to the Convention for framing a Constitution for the State of Maine.—

1820. This town contains 2026 inhabitants of which 402 are ratable polls. A number of the inhabitants seceded from the first & formed a second Congregational Parish in May. (8)

1821. Rev. Mr. Frothingham's church having increased to twenty seven members, two Deacons were appointed on the fourth day of June.—

Mr. Laughlin McDonald died July 24th. His age was not accurately known, but supposed to exceed one hundred years.

1822. A company of Light Infantry was organized, and its officers were Joel Hills Captain, Dudley Griffin Lieutenant, and Loring Varney Ensign. The town has 485 ratable polls.

The First Baptist Society purchased the old West meeting house, removed it to a central part of the village and put it in good repair. It is a one story building 36 feet square and has 49 pews. (9)

The conference meeting house (10) 40 feet by 32 was built for the Second Congregational parish.

8. The present Congregational Society.

9. The place of removal was Bridge street, between High and Washington streets. In 1838 it was converted into a stable, and existed as such until 1895.

10. It stood on Primrose Hill, just above the house of Ralph C. Johnson. After the erection of the North church, it was removed to Front street and was destroyed by fire in 1851.

1823. Number of ratable polls 525. In one year ending Sept. 1st the Selectman granted forty-eight Store, four Tavern, and two victualling Licenses, which yielded an income to the town amounting to two hundred and eighty-five dollars.

1824. The town voted to give Col. Nathan Stanley Six hundred and seventy dollars to free the town one year from all expense on account of paupers. Three thousand dollars were raised for repairs of highways and fifteen hundred for the support of schools. Number of polls 574, and of School Districts 14.

The Town house, a handsome brick building was begun. (11).

Rev. Charles Soule was ordained over the Second Congregational Parish & church, or as they style themselves the Society associated with the first Congregational Church June 30th.—

The officiating Clergy were Rev. Messrs. Gillett of Hallowell, Tappan of Augusta, Blood of Bucksport, Cummings of North Yarmouth, Mitchell of Waldoboro, Merrill of Freeport and Ingraham of Thomaston.

—Rev. Mr. Soules salary is \$ per annum. (12). The number of legal voters whose names were on the list in November was 555.—

The Methodist Meeting House was built and solemnly dedicated December 31st. (13).

Fifty seven deaths happened in town this year. Fever combined with Dysentery was the prevailing epidemic which proved very fatal to children.—

11. Now the High schoolhouse.

12. He was promised \$500, besides all from abroad.

13. At the corner of Miller and Cross streets.

List of persons who have died in Belfast from 1819 to 1824, including some belonging here whose deaths happened abroad.

1819.

Capt. Samuel Houston 92.
Dr. Charles Hall 41.
Mr. Ziba Hall Jr.
Mr. John Sargents wife
Mr. Abraham Clark
Mr. James Gilbreth
Mr. James Read
Mr. Solomon Hamilton
Miss Lydia Q uin
Maj. Wm. Cunningham's wife
Capt. James Doyle's wife
Mr. John Brown's wife
Mr. Andrew Patterson's child
Mr. Jesse Basford
Mr. Robbins
Mr. Caleb Stevenson's child
Capt. John Wales' child
Mr. Samuel Buckmar's child
Mr. Elijah Patterson's wife
The eight last named died of the Small Pox.

Mr. Jones
Miss Clemenina Toward
Mr. William Mayhew
Capt. Samuel Bird *
Mr. Samuel Brown's child
Mr. Hugh Ross' child
Mr. William Mayhew's child
Col. Philip Morrill's child
Capt. James Doyle's child
Mr. Samuel Tyler's child

1820.

Mr. Jerome Stephenson 82.
Mr. Archibald York's wife
Mr. John Thurston's wife
Mr. Andrew Leach
Mr. Nathaniel Johnson
Mr. John Houston
Mr. Issachar Thistle's wife

Mrs. Sarah Knowlton
Mr. Daniel Batchelder's wife
Miss Esther Gilbreth
Mr. John Huse
Mr. Alexander Clark's wife, 49.
Mr. George Barter.
Mr. John Winkley †
Mr. William Davis' child
Mr. Zacheus Porter's child
Mr. Peter Rowe's child
Maj. John Russ' child
Mr. Otho Abbot's child
Mr. Benjamin Cunningham's child
Mr. Paul Wentworth's child
Mr. Daniel Batchelder's child
Mr. Jeremiah Swan's child

1821.

Mrs. McCrillis
Miss Betsey Gilmore
Mr. Josiah Twitchel's wife
Miss Miriam A. Cross
Capt. Benj. Hazeltine's wife
Capt. William White *
Capt. Phineas Kellam *
Mr. Elisha Small *
Mr. William C. Kimball *
Mr. James Smith
Mr. Martin Patterson *
Mr. Paul Giles *
Capt. David Pierce's wife
Capt. Thomas Stewart
Mrs. Jones 84
Mr. Daniel Thurston *
Capt. James Cunningham's wife
Mr. Simon D. McDonald's wife
Mr. Henry Burk's son *
Mr. Ephraim Coulson's son
Mr. Ebenezer Burgess' wife
Mr. Laughlin McDonald
Mr. Joseph P. Ladd's child
Mr. Peter Rowe's child
Mr. Charles Bran's child
Mr. George P. Day's child
Mr. William Pitcher's child

Mr. Jereniah Walker's child
Mr. Eleazer Davis' child
Mr. David Goddard's child
Mr. Issachar Thistle's child
Mr. Thomas Pickard's child
Mr. Alexander C. Todd's child
Mr. Silvanus Gallison's child

1822.

Mr. George Cochran 85
Mr. James Shirley 57
Mr. William Patterson
Col. Thomas Cunningham 42
Benjamin Whittier, Esq. 39
Mr. Abel B. Eastman
Mr. William Davis
Mr. Joseph Williamson's wife
Mr. David Elliot's wife
Mr. Samuel Walton's wife
Mr. William Wording's wife
Mr Hiram Emery
Mr. John Pace's wife
Miss Lavina Thompson†
Miss Abigail West
Miss Jane Patterson
Mr. Franklin M. McKeen
Mr. Noah Matthews†
Mr. John Merriam's son
Mr. John Hopkins' son
Capt. Harvey B. Eells' child
Mr. Caleb Stephenson's child
Mr. John Roberts' child
Mr. William Frederick's child
Col. Philip Morrill's child
Mr. Nicholas Phillip's child
Mr. Josiah Twitchel's child
Mr. Thomas Clark's child

1823.

Mr. John Durham 74
Mr. Greenleaf Porter*
Mr. Moses Prescott
Mrs. Martha True
Mrs. Woodward
Mrs. Hannah Huse*
Miss Nancy Kidder

Miss Margaret Lymburner
Miss Mary E. Jackson.
Mr. Ziccheus Porter's child
Mr. Joshua Adams' child
Mr. Nicholas Phillips child
Capt. Nathan Swan's child
Capt. Josiah Simpson's son
Mr. Peter Holmes' son
Mr. James Durham's child
Mr. William Quimby's child
Mr. Samuel Jacksons Jr. child
Young man at Capt. N. Eells†

1824.

Capt. Solomon Kimball 73
Mr. Samuel Huse
Mr. James Patterson 80
Mr. Milton Patterson
Hezekiah Torrey Esq. ,
Mr. Nathaniel Holden
Mr. Andrew McFarland*
Mr. Caleb Smith 58
Robert Houston Esq. 69
Mr. Jonathan Clark 78†
Mr. Henry Pendleton*
Mrs. Starret P. White
Mr. Ralph Matthews†
Mr. Michael Norton.†
Mr. Daniel Davis
Mr. John Brown
Ziccheus Porter Esq. 44
Capt. William Furber's son*
Mr. Oliver Lane†
Mr. Leonard Crosby's wife
Mr. Samuel Jackson's wife
Mrs. Sturtivant
Mr. Gershom F. Cox's wife
Mr. Thomas Pickard's wife
Mrs. Houston
Mrs. Harriet Smith*
Mr. Abraham Libby's wife
Miss Julia Longfellow
Miss Hannah Rowet†
Miss Mary Stanley
Miss Emeline Stanley

Mr. Nathan Stanley Jr.
 Capt. Miller's Sailor†
 Mrs. Giles child
 Mr. John Thurston's child
 Mr. John P. Kimball's child
 Mr. Solomon Cunningham's child
 Mr. William Torrey's child*
 Mr. Thomas Houston's child
 Mr. Edward Wight's child
 Mr. Josiah Hall's child
 Mr. Cyrus Hall's child
 Mr. Benjamin Eells' child
 Mr. Dennis Emery's child
 Mr. Thomas Flagner's child
 Mr. Benjamin Monro's child
 Mr. Isaac Dunham's child
 William Ryan's child
 Mr. William Ryan's child
 Mr. Robert Smart's child
 Mr. Josiah D. Hinds' child
 Mr. Josiah D. Hinds' child
 Mr. James Kellock's child
 Mr. James Kellock's child
 Mr. William White's Jr. child
 Mr. Lewis Bean's Jr. child
 Mr. Nathaniel Patterson's 2nd child
 Mr. John B. Durham's child
 Mr. Jacob Cunningham's child
 Mr. Benjamin Brown
 Mr. Elijah Torrey's child
 Mr. Andrew W. Park's child
 Mr. James Morrice*

*denotes died abroad. †belonged abroad. Figures denote the age.

List of Moderators presiding at meetings for the choice of Town Officers in Belfast. Also Clerks, Selectmen, Treasurers, Constables & Representatives.
 1773 to 1825.

MODERATORS.

1773	Thomas Goldthwait*	1773.
1774	John Brown*	1774.
1775	John Tufts*	1777.
1778	John Mitchel*	1778.

1779	John Brown*	1779.
1785	John Tufts*	1786.
1787	James Patterson*	1787.
1788	Samuel McKeen*	1788.
1789	John Brown*	1789.
1790	Jerome Stephenson*	1790.
1791	John Brown*	1792.
1793	Lemuel Weeks*	1794.
1795	Jerome Stephenson*	1796.
1797	Telford Durham	1797.
1798	Jonathan Wilson	1798.
1799	Robert Steel*	1799.
1800	Jonathan Wilson	1800.
1801	Thomas Cunningham	1804.
1805	William Crosby	1811.
1812	Oakes Angier	1812.
1813	Thomas Cunningham	1813.
1814	Jonathan Wilson	1814.
1815	William Crosby	1815.
1816	Jonathan Wilson	1816.
1817	Bohan P. Field	1818.
1819	William Crosby	1819.
1820	Bohan P. Field	1823.
1824	William White.	

CLERKS.

1773	John Mitchell*	1775.
1775	Samuel Houston*	1780.
1785	Samuel Houston*	1791.
1791	Alexander Clark	1800.
1800	Jonathan Wilson	1813.
1813	William Moody	1814.
1814	Benjamin Whittier*	1815.
1815	William Moody	1816.
1816	Benjamin Whittier*	1822.
1822	Herman Abbott.	

SELECTMEN.

1773	John Brown*	1777.
1773	Benjamin Nesmith*	1776.
1773	James Patterson*	1777.
1776	John Tufts*	1777.
1777	Solon Stephenson*	1780.
1777	Robert Patterson	1780.
1777	Alexander Clark	1780.
1785	Samuel Houston	1788.

[illegible]

CONSTABLES.

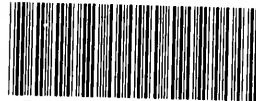
1773	William Patterson	1775.
1775	Nathaniel Patterson	1776.
1776	John Durham*	1777.
1777	John Davidson	1778.
1778	James Miller*	1779.
1779	John Brown*	1780.
1785	John Brown	1786.
1786	John Tufts	1787.
1787	James Patterson	1788.
1788	Samuel Houston	1789.
1789	Benjamin Nesmith	1790.
1790	Solon Stephenson	1791.
1791	William Patterson	1792.
1792	James Miller	1793.
1793	John Cochran	1794.
1794	Robert Patterson	1795.
1795	Jonathan Wilson	1796.
1796	John Brown*	1797.
1797	Robert Steel*	1798.
1798	John Cochran	1799.
1799	William Houston	1800.
1800	John Brown*	1801.
1801	Nathaniel Eells	1802.
1802	Jeremiah Bean	1803.
1803	Paul Giles*	1804.
1804	Thomas Reed	1805.
1805	John Russ	1806.
1806	Abel Baker	1809.

1809	John Merriam	1810.
1810	Thomas Cunningham*	1815.
1815	John Merriam	1817.
1817	Stephen Longfellow	1821.
1821	Samuel Cunningham	1821.
1821	Robert Patterson	1822.
1822	Nathaniel M. Lowney	1823.
1823	Thomas Cunningham	1824.
1824	Stephen Longfellow	1825.
1825	John Wagg	
1825	John T Poor.	
1825	Isaac B. Ulmer.	

REPRESENTATIVES.

1803	Jonathan Wilson	1805.
1806	John Wilson	1807.
1807	Thomas Whittier*	1808.
1808	Jonathan Wilson	1810.
1810	Thomas Whittier*	1812.
1812	George Watson	1814.
1812	Jonathan Wilson	1813.
1816	John Merriam	1817.
1818	William White	1819.
1819	Alfred Johnson	1821.
1819	John S. Kimball	1820.
1821	Ralph C. Johnson	1822.
1822	James McCrillis	1824.
1824	George Watson	1825.
1825	James McCrillis	

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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